

Mid-America American Studies Association
Spring 2015 Executive Board Meeting
St. Louis, April 18, 2015, 9am

All board members were present except for Matthew Calihman, Randel Jelks, and Tom Collins.

Officers:

President: Tom Oates (University of Iowa)
Vice President: Ben Looker (St. Louis University)
Treasurer: Michael Krysko (Kansas State University)
Secretary: Jeannette Eileen Jones (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Elected Representatives (at-large):

Joseph Bauerkemper (University of Minnesota-Duluth)
Matthew Calihman (Missouri State University)
Erica Hannickel (Northland College)
John Kinder (Oklahoma State University)
Michael Krysko (Kansas State University)

Faculty Representatives from Degree-Granting Institutions:

Ruben Flores (Also regional rep to ASA) (University of Kansas)

Graduate Student Representatives:

Tom Collins (University of Iowa)
Hannah Bailey (University of Kansas)
Alan Blair (St. Louis University)

Editors, *American Studies*:

Randal Jelks (absent)
Sherrie Tucker

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

9:25 am

We began with introductions of the board members.

II. Treasurer's Report (Krysko)

(See attached Balance Sheet and 990-EZ Tax Statement)

In the past year, we have maintained a balance in the excess of \$88,000. Walter Kihm showed concern that we maintain such a high balance as a non-profit organization. He suggests that we increase reimbursement for faculty members. Although there was a net loss this year, Walt was not concerned given our overall balance. We ask for clarification

on the bad checks. Hannah said it might be from the journal. Michael will ask Walt for clarification. We discussed fees for the outgoing and incoming webmasters. We need an explanation for the -\$12,544.15. We need clarification as to the nature of the loss. We asked Michael to ask Walt how much should be in the MAASA account each year.

III. Executive Director's Report (Kihm)

IV. *American Studies* Editors' Report (Jelks, Tucker)

(See attached.)

Sherrie will talk to Walt about putting the royalties for the journal in the correct column. Currently, he is putting them in the MAASA income column. She discussed the production costs for the fourth issue. The journal will launch the Special Issue on Ralph Ellison. The ASA will feature two panels on the Ellison issue, which Jeannette Jones and Tracy Floreani submitted. Randall and Sherrie will chair each panel. Sherrie thanked the board for allowing the journal to elect new Editorial Board Members for 2014-2015. (See attached.) This will help them turn around issues and respond to submitters more quickly. The journal used to calculate the budget calendar year, but switched to the academic year. The problem is that Walt reports on the calendar year, so the journal does not have a financial report. They will get an accurate report that will clarify shortfall issues. This year's Proposed Operating Budget (see attached) requests for a raise in production costs. The journal needs a boost in postage, fees for colored covers. The journal has 50 fewer institutional subscriptions.

MOTION #1: John Kinder moved to accept the Proposed Operating Budget; seconded by Ben Looker; motion carried.

The upcoming issue of the journal comes out any day now. The production costs remain the same. The printing costs go down. The summer reading issue will be out in June or July. The issue contains all the review essays. See the Social Media Report on Facebook, Twitter, and the Blog. The rejection rate is now higher than previously. The acceptance rate is around 25%, but it will drop.

V. Website/Webmaster Report (Friefeld)

We need to clarify that the form on the website is for those individuals who are NOT members of the ASA in the member states and thus are automatically members of MAASA. We need the master list of ASA members in the MAASA region. The last list we received was from the 2012 meeting in Tulsa. The rebate money from ASA is for ASA members who are in the MAASA region. Sherrie will do research on how much it will cost to print an additional 300 journals for members of the ASA who are in the MAASA region. She will also look into giving free online access to the journal to MAASA members. She will also find out where downloads for the journal originate. Tom will ask John Stephens for the list of our current MAASA membership.

- Ben will work on revision to language on the web, which states “*Full members also receive a subscription to the journal American Studies. To apply for full membership, fill out the Membership Form and send a check or money order to:*” We also need some language explaining what actually constitutes membership in MAASA.
- We are asking Jake to take down the form and create a link to the membership on the *American Studies* website.

MOTION #2: Motion to have Jake remove language regarding membership versus full membership, remove link to member form, and have Ben work on revised language for the website.

Moved by Tom and seconded by Joseph. Motion carried.

Sherrie suggested also looking into discounts for the journal for MAASA members.

MOTION #3: Motion to hire Jake Friefeld for the 2015-2016 fiscal year for \$3750. Duties will include maintaining and updating website, social media (Facebook and Twitter), and working with the chair of the 2016 MAASA Conference at the University of Kansas.

Moved by Joseph and seconded by Erica. Motion carried.

VI. Election of new Executive Board Officers

MOTION #4: Motion to appoint Joseph Bauerkemper, Erica Hannickel, Matthew Calihman, and John Kinder as interim Elective Representatives at Large until the March 2016 meeting at University of Kansas where the membership will confirm their positions.

Motioned by Ben and seconded by Erica; motion carried.

The membership meeting will be at the awards ceremony at KU.

MOTION #5: Joseph Bauerkemper nominated John Kinder for Regional Representative to the ASA Conference. Tom seconded the nomination. The board elected John with one abstention.

- **President**, Ben Looker (St. Louis University)
- **Vice President**,
Erica nominated John; Joseph seconded the nomination; John elected with one abstention
- **Treasurer**, Michael Krysko (Kansas State University)
Erica nominated Michael; Alan seconded the nomination; Michael elected with one abstention.
- **Secretary**,

Tom nominated himself; Erica seconded the nomination; Tom elected with one abstention.

Tom needs to get a list from John Stephens of the membership and translate into emails, so that we can use it for CFP and call for nominations for the MAASA Executive Board. We will discuss how to frame the solicitations later. Tom will solicit the members of the Graduate Representative from the 4 degree-granting institutions.

Nominations Committee will include Tom Oates and Michael Krysko.

VI. 2016 MAASA Conference

Host: University of Kansas

Dates: March 4-5, 2016

Conference organizers report (enclosed) – MAASA’s contribution?

Ben suggested designating one panel for Graduate Students to organize around issues affecting them, with either the MAASA Graduate Representatives leading or graduate students at KU. Erica suggested to open up conference for undergraduate submissions. We also need to have a membership meeting to coincide with the Friday reception and awards ceremony. The Board asked Ben to consider giving a Presidential/Keynote Address on Saturday, March 5.

They are asking for \$16,133.00. We looked over the budget for the MAASA conference at UNL. (UNL owes MAASA \$242.66). We added up the budget and it looks like our contribution would be \$11,333.00. We need to seek clarification on the KU budget. We need clarification on the “in kind” contributions.

MOTION #6: Motion to adopt “Battleground Midwest: Defining Who and What Matters in the U.S. and Beyond” as the theme of the MAASA 2016 Conference.

Alan moved to adopt the theme; Ben seconded the motion; motion carried.

Erica suggested a “Hey I Know Your Work” event for graduate students at the conference. Joseph suggested that Robert Warrior give the keynote. Tom will ask about the flexibility about the Saturday and Friday schedule.

Committee to assist conference organizers

- John Kinder, Ruben Flores, and Erica Hannickel

Committee to select Stone-Suderman Prize (2014 and 2015)

- Erica, Ruben, Michael Krysko

Committee to select Katzman-Yetman Prize (2016)

- TABLED until fall 2015 meeting.

Committee to select Kolmer Award (2015 and 2016)

- Sherrie, Ben, Alan

VII. American Studies Association Conference, Toronto, 2015

MAASA sponsored panels (Jones)

- Saturday, October 10, 12:00-3:45 in Sheraton Centre, City Hall Room
- Committee for MAASA reception (Sherrie and Jeannette); we will call on John and Ben if we need help

VIII. New Business and Announcements

Have Jake put the Salaita statement and the MAASA resolutions on the website.

Appendices removed from publicly accessible web copy; please contact a board member if you need to access a copy:

- American Studies Journal – Social Media Report #2: April 14, 2015
- AMSJ newsletter, March 2015
- TOC for AMSJ vol. 54, no. 1
- AMSJ editors letter to MAASA board members, April 17, 2015
- List of AMSJ new 2014–15 editorial board members
- American Studies journal proposed operating budget, July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016
- AMJS statement from Project Muse
- JSTOR Archive Revenue Sharing Allocation statement, 2014
- MAASA 2016 conference proposal and itemized proposed budget and schedule
- MAASA balance sheet as of Dec. 31, 2014
- MAASA Profit & Loss list, Jan.–Dec. 2014
- MAASA Profit & Loss by Class, Jan.–Dec. 2014
- MAASA 2014 federal tax return and Jan. 21, 2015 cover letter from exec. director